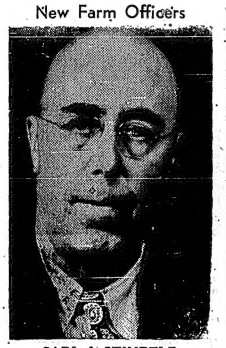
PEOPLE'S WEEKLY

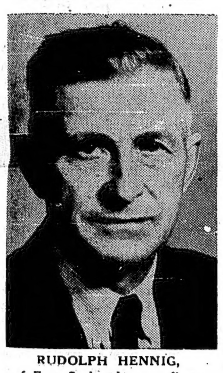
VOL. XXIX, No. 22 | EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1949 | $2,00 per year; 3 years $5.00

'Whose Freedom?' Coldwell Asks

New Farm Officers



CARL J. STIMPFLE,
President of the newly formed Farmers' Union of Alberta.



RUDOLPH HENNIG,
of Fort Saskatchewan, first Vice-President.



PERSONAL STUFF

BY E. E. R.

Congratulations are certainly due to the delegates who attended the farm convention in Calgary and succeeded so well in bringing into being a single farm organization by amalgamating the United Farmers of Alberta and the Alberta Farmers' Union. The election of Carl Stimpfle as President and Rudolph Hennig as First Vice-President links together in top posts two good men who will do a good job for the farmers of Alberta. Mr. Stimpfle was formerly President of the A.F.U. Mr. Hennig has long been associated with the U.F.A., was a member of the legislature for some years and recently succeeded Henry Spencer as President of the Alberta School Trustees' Association. Mr. R. N. Russell, of Athabasca, elected as Second Vice-President, has had considerable executive experience as a Vice-President of the A.F.U. At the head of the Farm Women's Union of Alberta are three capable and experienced women, Mrs. M. E. Lowe, former President of

(Continued on Page 8)

Saskatchewan Motorists Or Insurance Companies?

"The defenders of the present economic system try to frighten us by raising all sorts of bogeys about government in business, and suggest that freedom is being lost," charged M. J. Coldwell, M.P. in a CBC broadcast last Thursday when he reviewed the benefits accruing to Saskatchewan motorists under the government car insurance scheme. "Whose freedom is being lost in Saskatchewan today?" asked the C.C.F. national leader. "Is it the freedom of the motorist or the freedom of those who exploit the motorist? It is the freedom of insurance companies to charge exorbitant premiums. Whenever the word 'freedom' is used in political discussion, we owe it to ourselves to ask the questions 'whose freedom?' and 'freedom to do what?'

Greater Freedom

"Organized the democratic Socialist way, social ownership provides greater freedom," he declared. "If the Saskatchewan motorists decide that their automobile insurance could be handled in a better way, they can say so at the polls and change the government." "But," he asked, "how do you change the administration of an insurance company in any of the other eight provinces? Private companies can go on charging exorbitant premiums year after year, and they are never subject to the people's will expressed through democratically elected representatives."

He warned that "interests which benefit by exploitation will do

(Continued on page 8)

FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA IS SET UP

BY STAFF REPORTER

From the first session on Tuesday morning, January 11, 1949, until late Saturday night, January 15th, a solid majority of more than 600 farmer delegates to a joint U.F.A.-A.F.U. convention never for even a minute, lost sight of their major objective. There were extremists of both the left and right, there were those who expressed fear for the future, there were some who yearned for the glories of the past, but at all times delegates had a purpose that was clear, and a path that was straight.

To the most casual observer it was early evident that this purpose —the setting up of a new and single Alberta farm movement that can, and will, speak with a united voice, for Alberta farmers

(Continued on Page 3)

Opportunity in U.N.

LEADERSHIP ROLE URGED ON CANADA

OTTAWA (CPA) — The Canadian government has tended to "follow the lead of one of two major powers," David Lewis, C.C.F. national secretary, said in a speech prepared for delivery to the Yale Institute of International Affairs in New Haven on January 13.

"Canada is in a position to give leadership to all the middle and small powers of the United Nations, and its position as the senior Dominion of the British Commonwealth, and the close and friendly

(Continued on page 2)

MINE PROFITEERING IN THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON. — New evidence that the mining industry has profiteered during the past year was shown in figures just released by the U.S. Department of Interior.

These showed that while production of all mines—those turning out coal, metals and other minerals —rose by 4 per cent in 1948, the "dollar value" of the output jumped 26 per cent.

In the same period, pay increases of workers in all mines averaged not over 10 per cent, which indicates that the industry added about $2 in prices for every $1 hike in payroll.

MILLIONS TO BE SPENT ON BRITISH SCHOOLS

LONDON, England.—About $220,000,000 worth of new schools are to be built in Britain this year. This has just been announced by the Ministry of Education who state that this building program is twice as large as that undertaken in 1948. It has been carefully worked out in the light of the supply of labor and materials which can be drawn upon. This new program is designed to meet urgent developments in technical education.

MUST GET HIGHER PAY TO MEET BILLS

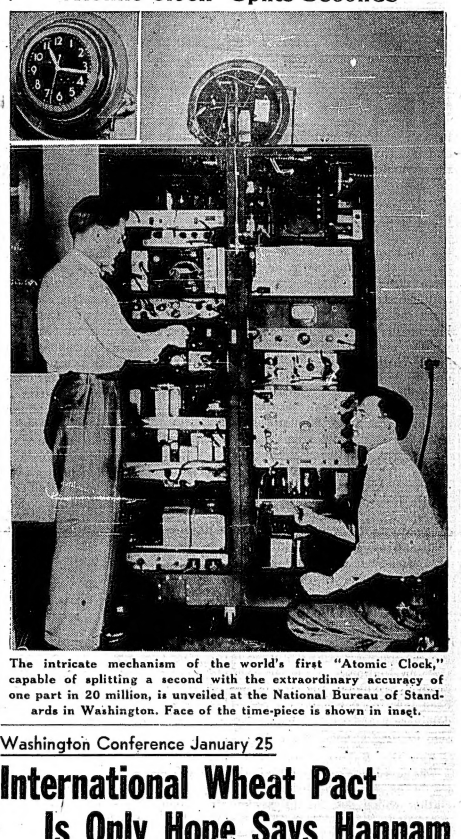
OTTAWA, (CPA).— A three-pronged drive for 1949 was launched by the Canadian Congress of Labor when its Executive Council at a meeting here on January 11 urged C.C.L. unions to go after higher wages to meet the increased cost of living, equal pay for men and women, and social security clauses in labor contracts. The forty-hour week and a guaranteed annual wage were other objectives.

Dealing with wages, the Congress said unprecedented profits, increased productivity and existing inequalities all argued for an upward adjustment of wages to meet this year's higher living costs. The statements of corporations show that wage increases can be absorbed without increasing prices.

The C.C.L. foresaw a need for increased purchasing power to absorb goods which are now being

(Continued on page 3)

"Atomic Clock" Splits Seconds



The intricate mechanism of the world's first "Atomic Clock," capable of splitting a second with the extraordinary accuracy of one part in 20 million, is unveiled at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington. Face of the time-piece is shown in inset.

Washington Conference January 25

International Wheat Pact Is Only Hope, Says Hannam

OTTAWA (CPA).— International commodity agreements are the answer to the problem of embarrassing surpluses of food products in producing countries and disastrous shortages of food in others, declared H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, in an address before the annual convention of the Ontario Federation in Toronto, January 6.

That was the unanimous report which an eighteen-nation commission brought back to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, when it was appointed to study the problem, Mr. Hannam said. Some 57 nations endorsed the report, and the institution of commodity agreements between nations is now a main feature of FAO's program.

Holds Out Hope

After discouraging setbacks, there now seems some hope of achieving an international wheat agreement. A third conference is to be held in Washington, January 25, Mr. Hannam said. Representatives of the Canadian Federation have been included in the Cana-

(Continued on page 7)

FLOOR PRICE FOR BUTTER PROPOSED

OTTAWA, (CPA).—"A satisfactory floor price on butter projected several years into the future" and "regulations by either federal or provincial authority to make certain that margarine is not sold to the public in such form as to imitate butter," may be two features of the CFA policy on margarine when the Federation discusses the subject during its annual convention in Saskatoon in the week of January 24.

"Adequate Safeguards"

H. H. Hannam, Federation president, indicated in a statement this week what lines the policy would take. He said that the Federation meeting would decide whether to appeal the supreme court decision legalizing the sale of margarine, or to advocate a program of "adequate safeguards for the dairy industry in the light of the public sale of margarine."

"Adequate safeguards" would include the floor price, and pre-

(Continued on page 3)

"Free" Enterprise in Baking

By Lorne Ingle

"THE BUTCHER, the baker, the candle-stick maker," —this line from the nursery jingle has been used to symbolize the small business that is supposed to be the foundation of so called "free" enterprise. Candle-stick makers are out of fashion now, and knowledge of how the meat trade is dominated not by the butcher but by the big parking monopolies is pretty widespread. But people have still clung to the idea that at least the baking industry provided evidence of the way in which the "little corner baker" could show his enterprise and initiative to the advantage of the community.



Big Shots In Control

The recent investigation into bread-baking showed just how wrong this concept was. It showed the big shots to be just as firmly in control of this field as they are of most other fields of business and industry in Canada. Furthermore the report showed that the big baking chains are gradually wiping out the little, privately-owned corner bakery. Figures produced before the investigator showed an enormous increase from 1939 to 1946 in the percentage of business done by the chain bakeries.

% of Bread Production by Chain Bakeries	1939	1946
British Columbia	18.4%	62.6%
Alberta	54.4%	76.0%
Saskatchewan	53.8%	75.8%

In other words the small bakeries which before the war were doing about half the business are now doing only a third to a quarter of the business. The combines report puts it this way: "With the increase since 1939 in the consumption, and therefore in the production, of bread and bakery products, the trend has been towards a greater degree of domination and control of production by the big chain bakeries. . . ."

Ran the Baking Association

The evidence showed that the big bakeries ran the baking Association which set the prices and controlled the industry. As the combines report says they were "the dominant factors and the moving spirits in the Association." The little bakers were led or bullied into co-operation.

Controlled by Milling Interests

The big baking chains are themselves in turn controlled by the flour milling interests. Ogilvie Flour Mills holds 95% of the shares in the most important of the three McGavin companies and lesser blocks of shares in the other two. Of the other baking chains the combines investigor says: "The development of Canadian Bakeries Limited has taken place under the financial control of Maple Leaf Milling Company Limited. The majority of the bakeries now operated by Weston's Bread and Cake (Canada) Limited were formed into a chain originally by Lake of the Woods Milling Company Limited through its subsidiary, Inter City Western Bakeries Limited. Weston's purchased these bakeries from Inter City in 1938."

Divide Territory

The baking associations divided the territory among the bakers in much the same way that trap lines are allotted to trappers, and each division of the baking chains was warned to stay off the trap lines of the others. For example, bakers in one province were not to sell bread in another province. They made other divisions of territory within the provinces. In Alberta, Edmonton bakeries agreed to ship no bread south of Red Deer and the Calgary bakeries agreed to ship no bread north of Red Deer.

Over the Border!

On one occasion some Saskatchewan bread got over the Alberta border at a price cheaper than the Alberta bread. The secretary of the Bakers' Association promptly investigated and notified the Edmonton manager of Canadian Bakeries who then wrote (May 17, 1947) his Saskatoon manager in part as follows: "As you no doubt recall, Alex, we agreed to make the cut-off of our territories at the Saskatchewan-Alberta boundary. We have, however, no objection to your serving an account just over the boundary providing the laid in price is the same as our own." Thus they prevented Alberta people living near the Saskatchewan border from saving money by buying Saskatchewan bread.

"Policing"

When they had thus set prices and divided up the territory, they organized their own policing system to see that the rules were obeyed. Readers who may think I am exaggerating by using the term "policing" should know that that is exactly what the combines investigator called it and indeed what the Bakers' Association themselves called it. Thus the combines report says: "To maintain the agreed prices it was apparently Mr. Simmond's function to police the bakers in the northern part of the province." In a letter dated April 27, 1943 to one of the bakeries Mr. Simmond's himself wrote: "I offered to police the price. . . ."

Pounced on Them

"Policing" is just what Mr. Simmond's did. When little grocers or bakers got out of line Mr. Simmond's was prompt in pouncing on them. On September 30, 1938 he reminded a baker in Vegreville, Alberta, that he was not to violate the "Country Shipping Schedule"; on November 30, 1939 he asked a baker in Elk Point, Alberta, to assist him in finding out "who is quoting lower prices"; on November 24, 1939 he straightened out a baker in Wainwright, Alberta, who "apparently felt that the price should be reduced rather than increased." One country baker testified during the investigation that he felt he had to maintain the prices the Association set or be put out of business. A few extracts from his evidence reads as follows:

"Q. You have the feeling they might undersell you or put you out of business, has anyone suggested that might happen?.

"A. Yes. . . ."

"Q. The big bakeries might put you but of business by underselling you?

"A. Yes. . . ."

"Q. And you have the feeling that you have to maintain the prices which the Association has set?

"A. Yes. . . ."

"Q. For that reason you are selling to the public at a higher price than you otherwise might be selling to them?

"A. Yes."

Evidence, Difficult to Get

In order to establish a clear cut case against a combine, documentary evidence is invaluable. But companies and trade associations often make it difficult to secure written evidence. On October 22, 1946 Mr. Allan McGavin, Jr. warned Mr. Gillis, his Lethbridge manager, not to put anything in writing concerning a particular price increase: "Please don't put anything in writing to Conn concerning this matter: It might be shown to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. . . ." And in connection with the investigation in B.C. the combines report says: "There is not as great a volume of documentary evidence as in Alberta, perhaps because it is the policy of Mr. F. A. Wilson, secretary of both the Master Bakers' Association and of the British Columbia Bakers' Association, to destroy his records, including his minutes, 'when they become too cumbersome'."

The bread investigation has given us a good insight into part of the milling-baking business in Canada. Another investigation is under way in specific relation to milling. When the report on the milling industry becomes available we shall then know a great deal more about just how free is the enterprise which provides us with our daily bread.

Negro Representatives



William L. Dawson, (D. Ill.), (left) and Adam C. Powell, (D. N.Y.), are the only Negroes in the 81st U.S. Congress. Rep. Dawson, who was named chairman of the House committee on executive expenditures, becomes the first Negro to head a congressional committee.

Leadership Role

(Continued from Page 1)

neighbor of the United States, gives Canada an unexcelled opportunity of influencing policy at the United Nations. To do so, however, Canada must pursue an independent policy based at all times on the U. N. Charter," Mr. Lewis said.

Mr. Lewis is attending the Yale Institute at the invitation of a fellow-Canadian, Dr. Percy Corbett, who is a staff member.

The C.C.F. secretary recalled the "classic example" of Munich as typical of the Liberal Government's policy of echoing Whitehall in the years before the recent war.

Trail Behind Washington

"Since the recent war, the tendency has been for Canadian foreign policy to trail behind Washington as well as London. Critics of the policy in Canada, and I am one of them, condemn the Government for again failing to take a positive and emphatic stand in the United Nations for prompt and decisive action on issues such as Palestine, Indonesia, and the like."

Mr. Lewis also condemned "the tendency on the part of certain political elements in Canada to have two policies: one of international participation for the rest of the country, and one of isolation to placate certain groups in Quebec."

"The Canadian Liberal Government," Mr. Lewis said, "has declared itself unequivocally in favor not only of Canada's participation in U.N., with all its implications, but in favor also of Canada's participation in a North Atlantic Security Pact. And, in fairness it must be stated that no section of the Liberal Party has declared itself in opposition to this policy.

Tories Differ

"On the other hand, division has already shown itself in the ranks of the Conservatives. A recent national convention of this party adopted a resolution in favor of a western defensive union, but the leader of the party in the province of Quebec some while ago, stated that he was in favor of Canada remaining neutral in the event of another war. Undoubtedly for political reasons, the national leadership of the party has not yet repudiated the statement of the Quebec leader."

CCL Charges

WFTU IS SOUNDING BOARD FOR RUSSIA

OTTAWA, (CPA).—The Canadian Congress of Labor called for abolition of the World Federation of Trade Unions as presently constituted, on the grounds that it has become "a sounding board for Russian political policies," at the conclusion of its Executive Council meeting in Ottawa on January 11.

The C.C.L. has been a member of the WFTU since it was established four years ago. The T.L.C. never joined, but the C.C.L. gave two reasons for holding membership—first, to keep an eye on Communist activity in the labor world, and second, because there is no alternative organization to carry out the functions of a world federation of labor unions.

Now, along with the British T.U.C. and American C.I.O., the C.C.L. is reconsidering its membership. The T.U.C. and C.I.O. are currently meeting in London to discuss their future relations with the WFTU, which will hold an Executive Bureau meeting in Paris this month.

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Must Get Higher

(Continued from page 1)

produced in quantity. When families are forced to limit their spending to bare essentials a surplus of other goods may soon be felt and is even now evident in some accumulating warehouse stocks.

Insufficient Income

Meanwhile hundreds of thousands of families are receiving insufficient income to provide even a standard minimum of essentials. Roughly half of the 806,604 workers in manufacturing are engaged in durable goods industries where the average wage is $3.27 below the $47.70 estimated as a minimum by Toronto Welfare Council standards, on the basis of the October 1 figure. The other employees in manufacturing—in the non-durable goods industries—have an average wage that is $10.76 below the Welfare Council minimum.

Congress unions are being urged to make provisions in new contracts for pensions; sickness and accident insurance; medical, surgical and hospitalization plans and life insurance.

Equal Pay

A strong drive will also be made to bring women's wage scales up to men's. In most Canadian industries the maximum weekly wages paid women are less than the minimum received by men. "Present high prices have created an impossible situation for these underpaid women workers," the Congress statement said.

Eileen Tallman, director of the department store section of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (C.I.O.-C.C.L.), said that women are earning from $10 to $12 a week less in that industry than men doing similar work.

"In the retail selling field there are many more women doing a job comparable to that held by men than in any other industry, but they are earning much less than men," she said.

John Lenglett, research director of the U.P.W. (C.I.O.-C.C.L.) said that women in the packing-house industry are making as much as 15c an hour less than men on basic rate jobs.

"Women generally are getting the short end of the deal in industry," he said.



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THE PEOPLE SPEAK

Letters to the editor may be published under a pseudonym, but in each case the name and address of the writer must be forwarded to the editor as evidence of good faith. The People's Weekly takes no responsibility for opinions expressed by correspondents and will not publish any letters exceeding 300 words in length.

THOSE BREAD PRICES

Editor, People's Weekly.

Sir: It seems to me that **The People's Weekly** performs another notable service to the general public in that feature-story by Lorne Ingle, based on the report of Mr. H. Carl Goldenberg, special commissioner, inquiring into the "Bread-baking Industry in Western Canada."

Apart entirely from such sentiments as the following, culled from correspondence on bread prices by some bakery executives: "It would appear to be good economy to eliminate him by one means or another"; and, "I believe if the Greek were out of the picture we would be in the clear. . . ." (which, to my uncouth ears, are curiously close to hold-up or gangster parlance); I would very much like to have an explanation of the strange bread-price picture drawn by a speaker in Edmonton just a decade ago (March 14, 1939) at a co-operative gathering in the Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton. I quote from a pamphlet published by the Alberta Government's Department of Trade and Industry:

"In the year 1928, for instance, the gross agricultural revenue of the three prairie provinces of Canada was $843,163,000. In the year 1932, the gross agricultural revenue of the same provinces was only $273,738,000—a decrease in revenue between the two years of $569,425,000. . . .

Now, let us turn to the consumer side of the picture and see if he benefitted in any way from this crucifixion of our farmers. Did bread consumers get cheaper bread? Our statisticians say "no." Here are some figures they have supplied with respect to Canadian bread prices:

Year	(Average Price) Wheat per bus.	Bread per lb.
1917-18	$2.22	7.7c
1925-26	1.46	7.6c
1928-29	1.18	7.7c
1930-31	0.76	7.3c

Apparently "the Greek" wasn't around in those lush (!) days!

LOOKING BACKWARD.

GHASTLY

Editor, People's Weekly.

Sir: I see by the **Calgary Herald** that George Drew at his meeting in Calgary again called the C.C.F. the "National Socialist" party. Drew is doing that deliberately, of course, in an attempt to make people think the C.C.F. is the same as Hitler's party. It is the scurvy kind of thing you can expect from his ilk.

But the charge might backfire on the P.C. Leader. Didn't he go to Europe before the last war and come back with great praise for Hitler and Mussolini? He found the strong-arm Nazi and Fascist leaders quite to his liking. He admired and envied them.

Don't let anybody in Alberta let Drew get their goat by his "National Socialist" stuff. What you should worry more about was his clear indication of a deal with the Social Crediters. A government of Drew, Duplessis and Low! I cannot imagine anything more ghastly for Canada and Canadians than that!

C. O. PRICE.

Calgary.

"PHOOEY," HE SAYS

Editor, People's Weekly.

Sir: Surely Mr. Roper was not simple enough to believe that the government would agree to a recount of the power plebiscite ballots. That business was fixed from the beginning. The cards were stacked against the rural people by allowing the city people to vote and what rural electrification would cost them. Then when it didn't then issuing dire warnings about work out so well they "lost" our Vermilion ballots which when they turned up didn't count the same as when the returning officer counted them. And Roper was simple enough to believe that they'd agree to a recount. Phooey!

I WANT ELECTRICITY.

Vermilion.

LIKED FOOT'S ARTICLE

Editor, People's Weekly.

Sir: I picked up a copy of your paper last week and as a Britisher I was thrilled by Michael Foot's article, "What About it Winston?" We get so many lies about what is happening in Britain and the terrible hardships of the people under a Labor government that it is refreshing to get a detailed list of some of the great accomplishments of the past three years. If Churchill read Mr. Foot's article I think he must have felt pretty small.

JIM MacPHERSON.

Calgary.

A NOISE LIKE ONE

Editor, People's Weekly.

Sir: I wonder if we'll find out when the legislature meets who is a "Douglasite" and who is not. In the **Calgary Herald** recently there was a report of a speech made by Mrs. C. R. Wood, M.L.A., to the Calgary Social Credit Constituency Association in which she said:

"Bretton Woods was originally a moderately priced hotel to which anyone could go. Now it is exclusively Jewish. You can't get in the premises unless you are a Jew. That's where the Bretton Woods' agreement was signed. I don't know if that means anything to you, but it does to me".

Wasn't that the kind of tripe for which Jaques was kept out of the **Social Crediter** and Bourcier thrown out of the party? Whether Mrs. Wood is a "Douglasite" or not she certainly makes a noise like one.

EX-SOCIAL CREDIT.

Didsbury.

Farmers' Union

(Continued from page 1)

to make known to industry, to producer and consumer, and to governments of whatever political name or whatever Canadian jurisdiction, the needs and desires of farm people of Alberta, would override any sectional differences that may have seemed important.

World-wide Goal

Final decision made place, as well, for a unified farm set-up in Canada and recognized the need and moved toward the fulfilment of a world-wide farm organization. The job of farmers is now as it has always been, to feed the peoples of the world. There was here no disposition to shirk this grave and high responsibility. Rather plans were laid to render less burdensome the interference of outside, and sometimes selfish, interests that have hampered in the past the fullest development of the farm resources of the world.

Elect Officers

Mr. Carl Stimpfle, who for four years has been the successful leader of the A.F.U., is President of the new Farmers' Union of Alberta. Rudolph Hennig, of Josephburg, former M.L.A. and a member of the Board of the U.F.A. for many years, Chairman of the Clover Bar School District, Chairman of the Alberta Trustees' Association of Alberta, and a man who has never failed to meet the call of public duty in many years of service to his neighborhood, is 1st Vice-President. As 2nd Vice-President, is N. R. Russell, of Athabasca, who has been a tower of strength, and whose good judgment and energy has been of great value in a similar capacity to the Alberta Farmers' Union.

Mrs. Low Heads Women

Mrs. M. E. Low, President of the Women's Section, and Orin Hart, President of the Junior Section, will bring the viewpoint of their respective groups to the deliberations of the executive and Board.

Mrs. Low has served for the past three years as leader of the U.F.W.A. and enjoys in unusual measure the confidence and respect of the farm women of the province. The Board members are all well known and experienced legislators in the farmers' parliament of the province. Meetings of the executive and Board in the near future will more definitely define the aims and immediate activities of the organization, giving fuller purpose to setting up locals and renewing memberships.

Summer Conventions

Throughout the summer, conventions in 14 districts will be held to highlight local needs, and elect a permanent Board of Directors, in the same manner as has been provided by the constitution of the A.F.U.

The office of the Association is likely to be in Edmonton, and staff will be determined at early meetings of the executive. Henry Young, of Millet, and A. B. Wood, Dewberry, carried most of the duties of chairmen of the huge convention and earned the unstinted admiration and respect of the delegate body.

SLAVIC ARTISTS WILL PRESENT PROGRAM SUN.

Presented by Slavic artists of Edmonton, a grand concert will be held in the Strand Theatre, Sunday, January 23, at 8:15 p.m.

Featured on the program will be a string orchestra, choirs, folk dances, vocal solos and duets as well as gymnastics and acrobatics.

There will be a silver collection and everybody is welcome.

Floor Prices For

(Continued from page 1)

vention of imitation in the packaging and coloring of margarine.

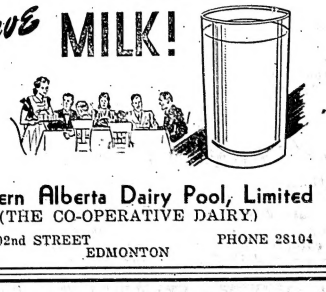
Soil conservation and international commodity agreements are other topics for discussion by the convention.

Right Honorable J. G. Gardiner, federal minister of agriculture, has been invited to address the convention, and one of the main speakers will be Honorable T. C. Douglas, premier of Saskatchewan.



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TWO METHODS

"FORGET THE Plebiscite and Provide the Power" is the heading on an editorial in the last issue of the *Farm and Ranch Review*. Calling attention to the fact that in spite of the huge adverse vote polled by the cities, the majority against public ownership was less than 200, the *Review* says, "the Manning Government now has less justification than ever for interpreting the result of the plebiscite as a mandate to deprive two-thirds of the people of Alberta of a minimum standard of decent living.".

"The facts of life in Alberta," says the farm paper, "are these:

"(1) Because of the sparsity of settlement, it is financially impossible for the private power companies to provide service for two-thirds of the farm population. (2) The Manning Government has set itself against proceeding by public ownership, against electrifying rural Alberta as the Manitoba Government is electrifying rural Manitoba.

"What then is left? Do we sit back and condemn two-thirds of the people of Alberta to be deprived in perpetuity of the ordinary amenities of life? Not if we can help it."

The *Review* then goes on to show that this province has the same problem as Ontario had. Ontario met it by the government of the province paying half the cost of rural lines and by guaranteeing the Hydro Commission against loss. It suggests that the Ontario system, while it would not be practical in Alberta, does point the direction. The magazine then makes the astounding suggestion that the government should start subsidizing the private power companies to enable them to extend rural services.

We rather think this is a suggestion the present government will welcome. There is nothing that it seems to get more pleasure in doing than making it possible for private corporations to make profits for their eastern or American shareholders out of Alberta people and Alberta resources.

The suggestion of the *Farm and Ranch Review* is diametrically opposed to that of the Farmers' Union of Alberta. The farm organization is demanding public ownership of power resources and distribution, so that surpluses made in profitable areas may be used to provide reasonably-priced services in more sparsely settled districts.

"WORKING, HAPPY, PROSPEROUS"

AN "ALL-OUT" testimony to the success of the British government in providing a better life for the mass of the British people, has come from Robert McCubbin, M.P., parliamentary assistant to Agriculture Minister Gardiner. The Canadian Press dispatch recording Mr. McCubbin's observations appeared on the front page of Tuesday's *Edmonton Journal*, a newspaper which tries hard to make us believe that disaster came to Britain with the election of a Labor government. The dispatch reads:

LONDON, Ont., (CP)—Robert McCubbin, parliamentary assistant to Agriculture Minister Gardiner, said Monday night that drives for clothing for the United Kingdom were "absolute foolishness."

He said that some families in Canada may be just as badly in need of clothes as families in Britain who are receiving parcels from Canadians.

Mr. McCubbin made a pre-Christmas visit to Britain with Mr. Gardiner.

"Everyone was working, everyone was happy, everyone was prosperous," he said.

Conceding that some things in Britain were rationed, he said the result was that Britons could not spend all their money and so were building up bank accounts.

"I didn't see a sign of poverty of any kind even in my unchaperoned visits into the poorer districts. I never saw one child that looked undernourished or poorly dressed," he said.

"Everyone was working, everyone was happy, everyone was prosperous." Has it ever been thus in British history under Tory or Liberal governments?

WHAT TO DO WITH IT

SOME DISCUSSION IS developing about the money the Alberta government is obtaining from oil royalties and the sale of leases, whether it should be counted as current revenue or as capital to be expended only for permanent or capital assets. The argument for the latter course is that the revenue is from a depleting resource, that sooner or later all the province will have will be holes in the ground unless the revenue is spent for permanent assets.

There are three main sources of revenue from oil: fees and rentals, royalties, and, since late 1947 when the government began reserving fifty per cent of the lands in any reservation, the sale of leases. The revenues from the last source have become very considerable. The main and most lasting returns are from royalties but these can only be expected to last for from twenty to fifty years.

The people of the province are getting only about half as much as they should be getting from their oil resources. There is a good argument for regarding what we are getting as capital money received in exchange for a capital asset.

THE THIRD COLUMN

SHYLOCKS LOSING OUT

"Labor," Washington, January 8:

"Many American commentators still insist that John Bull, under a Labor government is headed straight for perdition. 'LABOR' has never shared that view. Here is a bit of evidence, taken from the 'Wall Street Journal's' 'London correspondent, who is as much a Tory as Winston Churchill. He writes:

"'Many pawnbrokers vanish from the British scene. So do money-lenders. There are only 1,800 pawnbrokers in business now, compared with 2,672 before the war. Money-lenders' pre-war strength reached 2,725. Now it has dropped to 1,608.

"'L. Dawson, editor of the 'Pawnbrokers' Gazette' says: 'People have more money, or if they haven't, they don't need it as badly. If they are out of work, there is National Unemployment Insurance; if they are sick, there is National Health Service.'

"'In other words, while industrialists, financiers and 'landed gentry' may howl, the British workers are getting a break at last."

★

SOUND REASONING

Chauvin Chronicle, Jan. 5:

"For a long time we have maintained that the only sound trade basis between nations is a reciprocal one. We cannot hope to continue to sell to Britain and buy from the United States. No amount of economic theory can change the fact that you've got to sell goods to the value of the goods you purchase or else you find yourself growing shorter and shorter of cash until you're finally insolvent. This simply means that if we want to sell to Britain and buy from the United States . . . Britain is forced to raise United States dollars for us somewhere else. If she can't sell sufficient goods to the United States she's up against it."

★

ARE YOU REGIMENTED?

From Radio Address by Premier T. C. Douglas:

"Our opponents seem to argue that if the people own and control their economy we would lose our freedom. Well, let's examine that. Do you feel less free because the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is owned by all of us who are Canadian citizens than you would if some private monopoly controlled the airways? Do you feel less free when you ride on the C.N.R. or the T.C.A., or when you stay in the Bessborough Hotel because these are socially owned? When you travel in a Saskatchewan bus you are patronizing an enterprise owned by all the people of Saskatchewan. Would you feel less regimented if it were operated by a board of directors located in Chicago?"

★

NET FARM INCOME 1947

Alberta Wheat Pool Budget:

"The net Canadian farm income for the year 1947 was $1,260,000,000, according to the federal bureau of statistics.

"As there are approximately 730,000 farm families in Canada this gives an average income of $1,726 per farm.

"The average investment in Canadian farms is over $7,000 each. Allowing 3 per cent return on the investment brings the net income per farm down to $1,516, or around $5 a day for 300 days."



CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY

By Rev. G. A. Sauder, WASKATENAU

"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

ONE CHARACTERISTIC of our time is the tendency of speakers and writers to make glib statements with an air of absolute finality concerning the issues confronting us. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the oft repeated words, "Christian Democracy." The contention of the writer is that however important such a slogan is, as yet we are very far from its realization.

While walking along 101st street in Alberta's capital, I looked and beheld a man with only stumps of legs sitting upon the concrete sidewalk. Under him for protection from the cold and hardness of the concrete were pages from the democratic newspapers published under our "Christian democratic" system. Indeed, pictures of our Christian democratic leaders were to be seen, somewhat shrivelled, protruding out from under the unfortunate man. That was all democracy had to give. The date—December 22, 1948. The pencils he held for sale found little demand.

Is this democracy? Perhaps Christian? NO. But we must have no regimentation. It would violate freedom to give such a one a liberal pension so that he might find a comfortable and constructive way of life. People must be free to sit on the concrete sidewalk if they see fit, or if "Christian democracy" sees fit to provide nothing better. Freedom, who has murdered its meaning?

Again, in our Christian democratic Alberta we derived a so-called profit of nearly ten million dollars last year from the sale of liquor. As a result we have the strange anomaly of Christian workers, leaders in the various churches securing their $2,000 indemnity at least partially from liquor profits. Democratic? Yes. Christian? No.

Just one more example of our Christian democracy: It is reported that each prisoner in Canada is kept at a cost of two dollars per day. So-called Christian democracy says the most we can pay our old age pensioners is about $1.25 per day.

Yes, Christian democracy seems far away but we can bring it near only as we answer in the affirmative the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Notes On Current Events

By Wm. Irvine, M.P.

Let Socialism Be Crucified!

Mr. H. R. MacMillan, the lumber baron of British Columbia, in announcing over eight million dollars of profit for his company last year tried to divert public attention from his profit. His method of doing so may have been effective with many people but was far from being original. He first cried "stop thief" to Socialism as if it had been Socialism that had run off with eight million dollars worth of wealth produced by British Columbia workers and paid for in cash by the people of Canada. And then he went on to tell how the eight millions were to be invested in a new company to provide jobs, etc., for the poor forgotten working man.



His attack on Socialism was published in all the press across Canada and was broadcast over the radio. But it may turn out that Mr. MacMillan was the wrong man to make such an attack. He is well known as a typical profiteer. The people of British Columbia at any rate will realize that it was not Socialism but MacMillan who robbed the forests and brought about great floods such as devastated the Fraser Valley last spring.

Indeed the attacks now being made on Socialism by bankers at their annual meetings, by directors of Combines, by party politicians and the press must appear to the public for what it is—a well-organized and well-financed conspiracy to discredit Socialism and thus protect those whose privileges Socialism would end. Surely the average person is not such a fool as to believe that Socialism, which Canada never had, is the thing to be feared. It was not Socialism that brought unemployment and want, bankruptcy to farmers, or frustration to youth in the hungry 'thirties; nor was it Socialism which brought the national debt, high taxation and two world wars in a generation. The culprit is Capitalism.

Socialists can smile at the MacMillans when they remember the words of Kipling that truth can be twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, or when they remember that Jesus Christ himself whose mission was to help and save people, was crucified by money-changers, and officials of church and state as the enemy of the people.

Be Nothing And Be Famous

Writing of the Farmers' Union of Alberta the Edmonton Journal—after insinuating by an appeal to figures that the F.U.A. represented less than half of the farming people of the province—says in effect, that if this organization keeps clear of politics, does not co-operate with labor and shows that it is not a "strike" organization, "it should prove a boon," to the agricultural industry.

Yes, to be sure, if the Farmers' Union becomes an organization after the pattern of the Journal it will be as useless as the Conservative party in Canada is. If a farmers' organization is to refrain from political action and to avoid industrial action and to pin its faith to inaction, just in what way could it become a boon to anybody except the Journal?

The inaction of a great farmers' movement would be a great boon to any political Journal who wishes to see the people of the na-

(Continued on Page 5)

Notes On Current Events

(Continued from Page 4)

tion having only one political choice in their voting, namely, private enterprise. The Journal's political philosophy is that we must have the private enterprise system. But you can have it under the Conservatives for a period and then have it under the Liberals for another period. Liberty and Freedom consists in having a chance to choose which of the political butchers you want to take your skin off. Yea verily blessed is the farmers' movement which doeth nothing for it shall not only become the manure which maketh profits grow a hundredfold, but its name shall be lauded by the daily press. If the F.U.A. wants to be great in the eyes of the Journal, it must be nothing, say nothing, do nothing and think nothing.

Past Participle "Drew"

Mr. George Drew, leader of the Conservative party, is reported to have said in Calgary that if his party comes to power he "will pass laws which will declare it a criminal offence to undertake efforts designed to undermine the State." The legal profession at least should have a good laugh at that. For they know that our criminal code protected us against those who would engage in efforts to undermine the State long before Mr. Drew was born. If this is the chief reason why he wants to be prime minister, then Canada does not need him, for we already have the sort of law which he asks us to elect him to enact.

Does Mr. Drew not mean that he will pass a law to make it a criminal offence to belong to the Communist party? If that is what he means, why does he not say so? If that is what he intends to do he will then be doing in Canada, politically what he is damning Stalin for doing in Russia. But Mr. Diefenbaker, who is Mr. Drew's chief lieutenant, and who has been posing as the champion of human rights and freedoms and urging the passing of a Canadian Bill of Rights, surely would never stand for any such legislation as that.

Only a Tory can threaten freedom in freedom's name and be elected by freedom lovers to destroy freedom. Still there are growing numbers of people who know that the greatest threat to freedom in Canada is the concentration of economic power. Our industrial magnates are now the dictators of government policy.

"Going, Going, Gone"

"Please talk about our party, we have something to sell." Thus spoke Mrs. Drew as reported from Calgary. But she did not say what it was they had to sell. Presumably it was George.

Edmonton President



ART THORNTON

EDMONTON C.C.F. HAS "GOOD YEAR"

Art Thornton was elected president of the Edmonton C.C.F., succeeding Mrs. Edith Rogers, at a well-attended meeting of the Edmonton C.C.F. in the I.O.O.F. Hall on Tuesday evening.

Jack Hampson, newly elected president of the Alberta Federation of Canadian Congress of Labor unions, was the choice of the members for 1st vice-presidency; Floyd Johnson for treasurer and Miss Margaret Thompson, secretary.

Executive officers were elected as follows: J. A. Cone, J. W. H. Williams, K. Sivertsen, Mrs. H. Scott, Mrs. Jean McNeeley, Wolfe Margolus, Mrs. D. L. Shortliffe, Walter Mentz, Clifford E. Lee, John Gow, Ted Smithman, J. E. Enright and Roy Jamha. Auditors are Miss Sadie MacMillan, Mrs. Clifford E. Lee and W. Sykes.

The treasurer's report given by Art Thornton indicated that receipts during the past year totalled over $6,000.

Commends Officers

High tribute was paid to the retiring president, Mrs. Edith Rogers, executive officers and the women's groups by Elmer E. Roper, provincial leader. In commending the efforts of Clifford E. Lee, who managed the campaign for the Edmonton C.C.F. in the last general election, Mr. Roper referred to the fact that 1,300 more votes had been cast for the C.C.F. than in the previous election.

Mrs. J. W. Adair, president of the Women's C.C.F. Club reported increased membership with $500 donated to campaign funds and a further sum available for an Alberta "Woodsworth House." Mrs. Jean McNeeley reported that $122 had been turned over to the C.C.F. by the Commonwealth Club.

The executive was instructed to consider the question of nominations for East and West Edmonton federal constituencies.

William Kelly, baritone soloist, accompanied by Miss Jean Keeley, A.R.T.C., A. Mus. A., delighted the audience with several selections.

IRVINE WILL ADDRESS STUDENTS ON FRIDAY

William Irvine, M.P. for Caribco, will be the C.C.F. speaker when the University Parliamentary Forum Committee sponsors an open meeting in the Medical Building, Friday, January 21, at 4 p.m. Similar meetings will be held by each of the groups participating in the Mock Parliamentary elections at the University.

Little Joan: "Daddy, why is it that the Women's Club always bring their knitting when they come to the house?"

Daddy: "I suppose it gives them something to think about while they are talking."

The Honor Roll . . .

Camrose Constituency
Mrs. Edna Adamson, Memberships and People's Weekly $74.00

Ponoka Constituency
Sinclair Phillips, Memberships, etc. $32.00

Bruce Constituency
J. Kondrat, Memberships and Donation $25.85

Alexandra—Constituency
J. G. Inglis, Memberships $12.00

J. E. COOK'S MOTHER DIES IN EDMONTON

Sympathy of the C.C.F. movement is extended to Ernie Cook, C.C.F. provincial organizer, whose mother, Mrs. Grace Ann Cook, widow of William Thomas Cook, passed away on Thursday at the age of 79 years.

Rev. R. McElroy Thompson, who officiated at the funeral service on Monday, paid high tribute to the late Mrs. Cook's fine Christian character.

She leaves to mourn her loss, one daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Glenn, of Edmonton; four sons, Norman and Everett of Whitelaw and Ernest and George of Edmonton; one brother, Robert Potts, of Canyon Creek, Alberta; one sister, Mrs. J. C. Turner, Joussard, Alberta; ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

C.C.F. News

Yellowknife C.C.F. Club Elects New Officers

The first annual election of officers to the Yellowknife C.C.F. Club took place at the private-party room of the Veterans' Cafe, Monday, January 10th. In the absence of the provisional chairman, Albert Johnson presided.

Elected were: President, Earl Kelly; Vice-President, Mrs. Ruth Johnson; Secretary - Treasurer, Mrs. Pearl Clayton. Committee Chairmen chosen were: Organization, Bert Lundstrom; Publicity, Chuck Crate; Social, Harold Glick; Ways and Means, Easty Clayton.

It was decided to ask C. Crate to call together a committee to draw up a detailed policy for the Mackenzie District and establish liaison with C.C.F. groups in other parts of the Yukon-Mackenzie River riding, so that a complete program, in harmony with national C.C.F. policy but dealing with the special problems of the north, might be submitted for approval to meetings in both sections of the constituency and to the executive office.

The next general meeting of the Yellowknife C.C.F. Club will be at the private-party room of the Veterans' Cafe, February 7th, at 8 p.m.

HOUSE MEETINGS

House meetings in Pembina constituency will be held beginning **January 24th**, 8 p.m., at the home of Mr. Wm. Platt, **Westlock**, and finishing with a supper meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hooper, **Barrhead**, commencing at 6:30 p.m. Friday, **January 28th.**

Other meetings will be at **Dapp**, arranged by T. B. Foster, **January 25th**, at the home of Mr. Reidford, near **Highridge** on **January 26th**, and one to be arranged, probably near **Fort Assiniboine** on **January 27th**. These meetings will be visited by Ernie Cook, Provincial Organizer, who will also attend a meeting at the home of Mr. A. E. Moen, **Ryley**, Alberta, at 8 p.m the same evening.

NOMINATING CONVENTION

Jasper-Edson C.C.F. Federal Constituency Association will hold a nominating convention in the I.O.O.F. Hall, Edmonton, on Saturday afternoon, **January 29**, at 2 p.m. Ernie Cook, Provincial Organizer, will be in attendance.

Brewin Is Nominated For Toronto-St. Paul's

Andrew Brewin, president of the Ontario C.C.F., has been nominated as candidate for the federal riding of Toronto-St. Paul's. Over 800 people attended the convention, held in Jarvis Collegiate.

Write C.C.F. or Phone 28862

How many C.C.F. people have moved from your district and have failed to make contact with the C.C.F. in their new home? The C.C.F. cards for renewal of memberships are bringing to light the fact that many newcomers to Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge as well as smaller centres, have not been contacted in their new homes.

C.C.F. people are friendly and anxious to include all those who are supporters, or who have been members and feel the need to carry on the crusade that is the C.C.F. Write this office or phone some one in your community and make known members of your family, your neighbors or any members of the C.C.F. who have moved recently. In filling out the cards it is drawn to the attention of the canvassers that new addresses should be given where they can be obtained.

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Norwegian Labor Party

Socialist But Not Marxist

By O. B. Grimley in Sons of Norway Magazine

SOME TIME ago there was a debate at an American University about Norwegian politics, and in the course of the discussion, the question arose if the Norwegian Labor party was a Socialist party or not. One of the participants in the debate passed the question on to me.

Yes the Norwegian Labor party is a Socialist party, but it is not a Marxist party any more, like most of the Socialist parties of Western Europe more or less. Especially here in Northwestern Europe, the Socialist parties have ceased to be Marxist parties, although they started out as such. The only pure Marxist parties left in Europe are the Communists.

Contrary to Predictions

You see time has run away from the theories of Karl Marx, formulated 100 years ago. The development has gone contrary to his predictions. When Karl Marx wrote his "Communist Manifesto" in 1847, it was based on the conditions of the laboring classes at that time. The workers were at the mercy of the machine owner. The theory that the workers should compete freely for the best jobs and the highest wages turned out in practice to be a competition for the lowest wages. The one who agreed to work for the lowest wages got the job. The workers had no political influence because they did not have the right to vote. Labor unions were forbidden by law and strikes likewise. Labor leaders were either deported to convict colonies in Australia or they were blacklisted, and not a factory in all of England would give them work.

The tenders of the machines were without political or economic power, and it was therefore not strange that Marx under these circumstances saw no other solution than a revolution by which the workers could be liberated from the hopeless situation—living in the slums of the new factory towns in indescribable conditions of dirt, squalor and despair.

Don't Need Revolution

But as time went on, the workers secured the right to organize their trade unions, and strikes were recognized by law as a legal method of securing higher wages and better working conditions. They secured the right to vote, and today Norway has a Socialist government, like Great Britain, Sweden and Denmark. They do not need a revolution to secure the decencies of human life. They have abolished the conditions in the time of Marx. They can follow a democratic evolutionary line of development, and avoid the dangerous method of a dictatorship, which as a rule can only be abolished by a new bloody revolution.

The ideals of revolution are often betrayed. That happened in the French Revolution and in the same way the Russian Revolution has been betrayed by its present rulers. In the old Russia, a revolution was probably necessary, but not in Norway.

Mistaken In Trend of Events

Karl Marx was mistaken in the trend of events during the century that followed the publication of his theories: He thought that the revolution would first occur in the most highly industrialized countries. Instead the first Marxist revolution occurred in Russia, one of the least industrialized countries in Europe—a backward land of peasants. The industrial development commenced to take place after the revolution—not before.

Karl Marx himself did not want his theories accepted as a permanent truth from which one must not deviate an iota. One of the last things he said before his death was: "I am not a Marxist." And if he had lived today, he would most likely have protested against some of the hardboiled methods, used by his so-called followers. He suffered under somewhat the same conditions in his own country in Germany which forced him to live as an exile in England through most of his life.

Still Marx could not rid himself of the background of his youth and early manhood. He had grown up amid the autocratic regimes of his fatherland, and when it came to formulating definite methods of liberating the working classes of his day and generation, he could not think of any other methods than the way of a dictatorship—"The dictatorship of the proletariat," no matter how humanitarian his intentions were.

Autocratic Background

But so great was his prestige that all of the Socialist political parties, founded later in Europe, were organized as Marxist parties. His brand of Socialism is called scientific Socialism, and it was a tragedy that it should be formulated by German philosophers with their autocratic background. No man can rid himself entirely of the influence of the environments of his childhood and youth.

Utopian Socialists

There was another Socialist movement at the time Marx lived and wrote. That was the Utopian Socialists. The movement was entirely British in origin and bore the unmistakable brand "Made in England." The movement had no program worked out in detail like the scientific Socialists. It bore the earmarks of the British method of "muddling through." It was experimental in nature—believed in establishing Socialist settlements, etc.

Laughed At

The Utopians were laughed at as idiotic dreamers by the followers of Karl Marx, and the movement was thrust into the background. But it was nevertheless the Utopian Socialists who have been able to show the most practical results.

Out from the ranks and influence of the Utopian Socialists came that group of men and women, the Rochdale pioneers, who in 1844 founded the co-operative movement with the profits returned to the consumers or producers. From England the movement has crossed the boundaries of practically every country in the world, until today in the retail, wholesale and manufacturing enterprises of the consumers, the marketing associations and processing plants of farmers and fishermen and housing co-operation it embraces at least 100 million families the world over.

In Norway there are 1,081 local consumers' co-operative societies with a membership of over 357,000 families, representing one third of the population of Norway. Norwegian consumers' co-operatives own and operate 15 different kinds of factories, owned by the members of the above-mentioned 1,081 local societies.

Labor Supports Co-ops

The Norwegian Socialists, organized in the Labor party, support warmly the Norwegian co-operative organizations. There is hardly a farmer or a fisherman in Norway today who is not a member of the co-operative movement. One third of the families who are members of the consumers' co-operative represent independent Norwegian farmers. This movement is said to represent a practical ideal of an industrial democracy.

We have therefore had the strange development that the Norwegian Socialists have swung from scientific Socialism to the democratic methods of the Utopian Socialists. That is, they have become their heirs, adjusted to contemporary conditions and demands.

Norwegian Socialists do not look upon Karl Marx as an infallible prophet, like the Communists do. They look upon him as a pioneer in social economy as it affects the problems of labor. His work and theories have been food for thought for later study and research work, regarding the problems of labor economics.

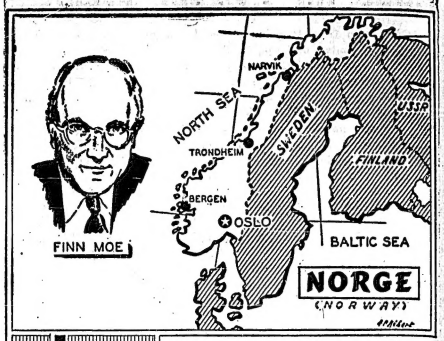
Time has flowed for 100 years since Marx published his epoch making writings, and this century has proved that a scientist can be wrong, no matter how penetrating a thinker he may be. Others must therefore pick up his threads of thought and revise them on the basis of the actual events and experiences throughout the succeeding generations.

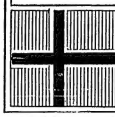
Doesn't Rush to Marx

When therefore a contemporary Norwegian Socialist is confronted with a social problem, he does not rush to his bookcase to find out what Karl Marx said about this subject in the year 1848 and then follows the precepts of that ancient writer though the heavens fall. No, he acts more in the spirit of the old British Utopian Socialists. He looks at life as it surges about him today and seeks a solution on the basis of that. But the funny thing is that by the same token, he is called a conservative Socialist, while he who depends entirely to the letter on the ideas of a man who lived and wrote 100 years ago and died before the laboring classes got the franchise in Europe, he is called a radical Socialist. What would we call a non-Socialist politician who would insist on going back to the social, economic and political conditions of 100 years ago? We would call him a reactionary, a reactionary so moss-grown that you would not be able to tell what he is made of.

(To be continued)

U.N. Facts and Faces NORWAY



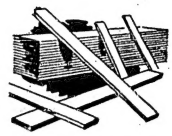


Norway, a mountainous country extending from the frozen Arctic to the gateway of the Baltic Sea, is known all over the world by her merchant fleet. The sea, washing 12,000 miles of coastline, provides natural industry for Norway's 3,000,000 people, who are among the world's greatest sailors and fishermen. Her farmers live mainly along the famous fjords (inlets) and in valleys deep in the rugged mountains, which also furnish water power for electricity to run Norway's industries. The country is a Kingdom and gave the United Nations its Secretary-General, Trygve Lie. Its Permanent Representative at U.N. Headquarters is Finn Moe; its flag red with a white-bordered blue cross.

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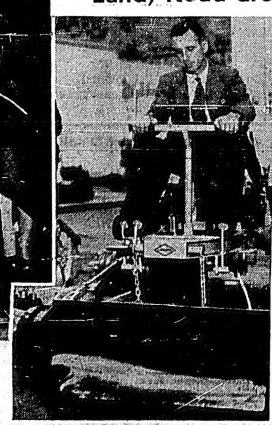


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ON SHOW in recent exhibition in London, England, were these three, wheeled ways of mechanical progress. Left: The Velocette 149 lightweight motor-cycle, called the "two-wheeled auto" in Britain because of its water-cooled multi-cylinder motor, shaft drive, hand starter and front and rear suspension. At least 15,000 of the new machines have been ordered for the United States. Center: The Gunsmith small tractor, utility land baby that numbers spraying, hoeing, hedge cutting and bull-dozing among its accomplishments. Right: London Inventor Segell's aid to mothers—a baby carriage that can easily be pushed up or downstairs. Six small wheels, three at each side, at the rear do the trick. Britain's next big industrial show — the British Industries Fair, to be held next May 2nd to 13th.

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U.N. Observers



United Nations observers sit on the sidelines at a Java airport as invading Dutch troops land. The observers will report to the U.N. Security Council on the Dutch invasion of the Indonesian Republic.

International

(Continued from Page 1)

dian delegations at previous conferences, and will be at the forthcoming one.

Objectives of international commodity agreements were outlined by Mr. Hannam as:

1. Orderly sharing of the international market.

2. Facilitating equitable distribution of food throughout the world.

3. Stabilizing prices in the interests of both producer and consumer, and in so doing, eliminating unnecessary price fluctuations, and often harmful manipulation of the market.

Opposition by those who want to retain price fluctuations and speculation, said Mr. Hannam, was the best argument for the need of international commodity agreements.

Now Is The Time

Mr. Hannam did not think that direct acreage control would be necessary. Marketing quotas, a technique which worked in western Canada, provides a measure of indirect production control which is desirable, and beneficial to all concerned.

Stabilizing the wheat market would tend to stabilize coarse grains and in turn tend to stabilize livestock prices, Mr. Hannam said. "Now is the time to try out this program, before a crisis arises," Mr. Hannam emphasized. "We look to the forthcoming wheat conference to translate five years of theorizing about a new kind of world program, based on international understanding, goodwill and co-operation, into effective action in respect to one commodity, as the first logical step towards implementing a program fundamental to the whole conception of the United Nations."

Afterthoughts Are Usually Best, Mr. Drew

OTTAWA, (CPA).—Democracy was an afterthought.

After being sworn in as a member of parliament on January 10, George Drew, new Conservative leader, was asked by newsmen whether the Tories would contest the next by-election in Nicolet-Yamaska. The answer was prompt and affirmative.

An hour or so later a small note was tacked to the Press Gallery bulletin board:

"Mr. Drew wishes to add this further statement to what he said this morning about Nicolet-Yamaska:

"It is of course for the electors of Nicolet-Yamaska to decide what is to be done, but I have reason to believe that it is their intention to enter a candidate representing our party."

The Triple Challenge

Due to the fact that copies of "The Triple Challenge" by Francis Williams had to be re-ordered from England when eastern publishers were sold out of this popular publication, there will be some delay in filling orders already on file with The People's Weekly Book Shop. The shipment from the old country is expected shortly and will be mailed out immediately to customers.

A BIT OF Nonsense

Old fire-eating Senator "Jim" Watson, hard boiled reactionary, was once the topic of a conversation in the White House during the Coolidge administration.

"You know," remarked one of the guests, "I heard Jim make a speech back in his native Indiana one night, and when he came to his conclusion he said, 'Fellow citizens, now I have given you all the facts, and you can vote for me or go to hell'!"

President Coolidge, who had been quietly listening, intervened. He said: "Difficult choice wasn't it?"

"How you've changed," said the blond to a friend she hadn't seen for five years. "You used to have thick black hair and now you're bald. Lou used to have a ruddy complexion and now you're pale. You used to be stocky and now you're thin. I'm surprised, Mr. Kelly."

"But I'm not Mr. Kelly."

"Oh! You've even changed your name!"

"I 'aven't 'ad a bite for days," said the tramp to the landlady of an English inn, the George and Dragon. D'ye think yer could spare me one?"

"Certainly not," replied the landlady.

"Thank yer," said the tramp, and slouched off. A few minutes later he was back.

"What d'yer want now?" asked the landlady.

"Could I have a few words with George" said the tramp.

Enoch had invited Joe for a ride on the back of his new motorcycle. After they had gone a few miles, Enoch asked Joe how he liked it.

"All right," said Joe, "but the wind is catching my chest."

So Enoch stopped. "Take your overcoat off, Joe, and put it on back to front; that will protect your chest a bit, and I'll button it up at the back."

They restarted, and after a while Enoch asked Joe if he was warmer. No reply. Joe wasn't there. Enoch turned the machine around and went back until he saw a crowd, and there was Joe, lying motionless.

Anxiously Enoch asked one of the crowd, "How is he?"

"I can't make it out," said the bystander. "He ain't spoke since we twisted his head the right way around."

Danger In A Pattern

By Clifford E. Lee

The other day Britain and the United States adopted a standard screw-thread. Henceforth the nut from a British bolt will fit on an American machine. It was a simple thing. But in increasing industrial efficiency it was of high importance. And it marked another step in a process which is characteristic of our time, that of standardization.



Planes and steamships and trains and movies and radio have made this much more One World than it used to be. Bathtubs and central heating and refrigerators are turning up in unaccustomed places and they all look substantially the same. An African king is crowned in the same garb worn by George VI in England's most recent coronation. Chances are a European swallows the same fruit salts his dyspeptic American counterpart takes the next morning after drinking the same kind of stuff in the same kind of night-club. Small wonder that you find in South America replicas of the architecture, dress, voice inflections, manners, and even the morals of Hollywood. A pattern of living is taking shape throughout the world.

Standardization is the order of the day. On the whole, related to those things which make up our physical environment, the result is more good than bad. It is when these habits of conforming to pattern invade the field of the mind that danger lurks.

Carlyle said gunpowder made all men the same height. The danger is that nuclear energy will make all minds the same size. Atomic weapons may tend to crowd the thoughts of men into one of two rigidly defined patterns. That would be dangerous to our physical safety. It would be calamitous intellectually. For thinking in rigid patterns is unscientific. And our future depends upon more scientific habits of mind not only on ivory-tower levels but among people in general.

Can't Work In Straight Jacket

Most of our scientific progress has come because of the freedom of scientists to browse around and come to any conclusions the demonstrated facts would support. One of the things that beat Hitler was that German science had been confined to the straight-jacket of nationalist thinking. The other day a scientific worker in Russia was hustled off to Siberia because he adhered to theories of genetics which did not fit the pattern of the party line. In scientific fields in recent years there has been considerable evidence that the formerly much-vaunted science of the Soviets is suffering from the fact that Stalin, as Hitler, expects scientists to make facts fit a pattern rather than make the pattern fit the facts. It is an occupational disease of dictators. But standardization of thought and science just do not go together.

The Scientific Mind

One of the characteristics of the scientific mind is that it seldom, if ever, accepts absolutes. Scientists delight in telling us that there is no absolute truth, which is, of course, itself not absolutely true.

But other people have a way of going overboard for absolute and undiluted dogmas. In religion, for instance, there are those who in the name of Christianity would damn all non-conformists. In politics there are those who with every living breath propound the virtues of Capitalism, and think of Free Enterprise as a pure and presently operating system. Among those are monopolists on one hand and members of co-operatives on the other. Even their proximity to the deviations from the straight line does not permit them to see that in practice their system has been modified by necessity and only the theory in their minds is 100% pure. It is a mental quirk, this 100% stuff.

However, there is undoubtedly more tendency to absolutism on the part of those of the political left than those of the right. Radicals on the whole are newer to their convictions and immaturity often confuses irresponsibility with the fighting spirit. And there are those who take a theory, expounded a hundred years ago by a very bad prophet indeed, and try to make obviously contrary facts fit into his pattern. These display all the habits of mind of George Drew, except that he is trying to distort facts that fit somewhat into a picture only twenty years old.

Theories vs. Facts

Perhaps we will not make sharp social advances until more people acquire the intelligent habit of making their theories fit their facts rather than trying to squeeze, stretch and otherwise distort their facts to fit theories they sold themselves in absolute form a long time ago.

At the moment the fate of most of us, and conceivably that of our civilization, may rest on the degree to which one man, Joseph Stalin, has allowed his mind to fall prey to a rigid and uncompromising dogma. He is described as a "Marxist dialectician." If he is, and adheres rigidly to those rules laid down a century ago, then war is coming.

No C.C.F.'er need be afraid to test his convictions with the facts of our time. They fit and support his belief, unless he be one of those who has allowed himself to accept the absolute and ultimate interpretation of Socialism laid down so long ago that facts have inevitably changed its validity.

The Social Democratic parties of the world will be the intellectual home of those who do not let their minds fall victim to the absolutism of either extreme. There is a great responsibility and a great future for political organizations of Socialist partiality, who remain adaptable enough to formulate down-to-earth policies based on facts which in a changing world of variable human beings are modified year by year.

Such a party will one day be the government of Canada. I hope the C.C.F. qualifies.



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LABOR DIRECTORY

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EDMONTON

Carpenters & Joiners of America Local 1325, Edmonton, Alta., United Brotherhood of—Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays in the Labor Temple. President, Charles D. Blair, 10220 107th Street; Fin.-Sec., L. D. Pollard, 9828 131A Ave.; Treasurer, J. A. S. Smith, 11882 95A Street; Business Agent, J. P. Cragg, Labor Temple.

Garment Workers of America No. 120, United—Meets second Wednesday in each month in Labor Hall. President, Percy Williamson, 9548 106A Ave. Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. Smith 9817 96th Avenue.

FIRE FIGHTERS, No. 209, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF—Meets in No. 2 Fire Hall. President, A. J. G. Lauder, 14609 - 101 Ave., Sec.-Treas., J. Graham, 11047 - 92 St., Edmonton.

UNITED PACKINGHOUSE WORKERS OF AMERICA—Edmonton, Alberta. MEETINGS

Local 233 (Burns)—Second Monday of each month; Alberta Avenue Hall—8 p.m.

Local 243 (Canada Packers)—First Monday of each month; Alberta Avenue Hall—7:30 p.m.

Local 280 (Swifts)—First Thursday of each Month; Alberta Avenue Hall—8:00 p.m.

Local 319 (Gainers)—Second Wednesday of each month; Ritchie Community Hall—8:00 pm.

Local 345 (Horse Co-op.)—First Saturday of each month; U.F.W.A. Board Room—10.00 a.m.

Local 306 (N.W. Mill)—Second Saturday of each month; U.F.W.A. Board Room—10.00 a.m.

Edmonton Joint Council—Last Wednesday of each month; U.F.W.A. Office—8:00 p.m.

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Personal Stuff.

(Continued from page 1)

the United Farm Women of Alberta, Mrs. E. L. Pharis who has been prominent as a woman member of the A.F.U. and Mrs. R. B. Gunn, a past President of the U.F.W.A. The organization is away to a good start with capable, experienced and earnest men and women in executive positions.

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One can understand some sadness on the part of members of the United Farmers of Alberta as their organization voted itself out of existence to merge into the larger new movement. Too much cannot be said or written about the important role played by the U.F.A. in this province. Until the organization of the Alberta Farmers' Union seven years ago, the U.F.A. was the spearhead of all organized farm activity in the province. Out of it grew the great co-operative movement which is now such an important part of the economic life of Alberta. The wheat pool, the dairy pools, many other co-operative enterprises were promoted within the U.F.A. Many of them got their start through the sympathetic assistance of the U.F.A. government which was in office from 1921 to 1935. And of that government itself many good things can be said. It was in office in the most trying period in the history of this province, when millions of dollars were being spent for relief out of meagre revenues that were less than one-third of those now being collected by the provincial government. One of the most patently dishonest things done by spokesmen of the present government is the comparison they make between government activities in the early 'thirties with those today. Due to financial and economic circumstances beyond the control of the province the U.F.A. government faced insurmountable difficulties. Due to favorable national and world conditions for which the present government can take no credit, its financial position is one of abounding surpluses. The U.F.A. government had its faults. But it also left a record of good government under the most adverse circumstances. It should be included with pride among the other great projects of the United Farmers of Alberta.

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It might not be so noticeable to others as it is to me, but as I read Saturday's papers with the reports of resolutions passed by the Calgary convention it was all very familiar language. It is no exaggeration at all to say that every important policy resolution passed by the convention read as if it had been taken without revision from the C.C.F. program. And by the same token, all important decisions, on electric power, automobile insurance, administration of oil resources, coarse grain marketing, and many others, were in direct conflict with the policies of the government which the farm people of Alberta elected last summer. The similarity of the farm organization's policy with that of the C.C.F. and the clash of the farmers' objectives with the policies of the government which could not have been elected without farm support, is something that calls for some soul-searching, probably on our part.

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The new farm organization, like the A.F.U. and U.F.A., is non-partizan. But to say it is non-political is nonsense. Many of its major objectives, as set out in the resolutions passed at Calgary, cannot be achieved except through political action, through some kind of a political movement. All the "pressure" in the world isn't going to have much effect on governments if they can flout the wishes of the people's industrial organizations and still be returned to power.

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Very apparently the majority of the people who were represented by the delegates who passed those resolutions in Calgary last week, were responsible for the election last summer of a government whose policies run counter to the views expressed in the convention's resolutions. There surely can be only one explanation of that phenomenon. They preferred the present government with policies opposed to their own, to the C.C.F. with policies the same as their own. But if that is the answer it is not good enough. It still doesn't make sense for the farm people to elect a government with policies opposite to their own. They may not have liked the alternative in its present form. But they can make any political movement in this province what they want it to be if they will, in every constituency in the province, move in and assume the leadership and control to which their numbers and the extent of their interests entitle them. They will then have a political movement that will carry out the policies of their industrial organizations. I wish they'd do it to the C.C.F. They'd find no one trying to stand in their way.

SCORE FREIGHT BOOST ON FARM IMPLEMENTS

OTTAWA, (CPA).—While the Transport Board begins hearings in Ottawa in its review of the 21% freight rate increase granted early in the year, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture is protesting a recent revision by the railways in the classification of farm implements.

New rates on farm machinery went into effect on December 27. Taken with the general increases in rates, they make a total of almost 50% increase in the rates on farm machinery within the past year.

The rates affect machinery moving from eastern shipping points to western Canada.

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(Continued from page 1).

anything they can to keep us from seeing and understanding the great benefits which would accrue to the people of Canada through the adoption of democratic Socialism.

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"C.C.F. policy is not rigid," Mr. Coldwell emphasized. "We intend to socialize only those things where socialization would bring great benefits to the Canadian people. That there are such things we all know from our own experience. Who would question the benefits of publicly-owned hydro and other utilities?" he asked and went on to show in some detail how Saskatchewan automobile insurance had benefitted the people.

He pointed out that several provinces have recently made it compulsory for automobile owners to carry a certain minimum amount of insurance against accidents. This policy has been accepted in Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. But, he said, all the other provinces provide that car owners must purchase this insurance from private companies. Saskatchewan, on the other hand, decided that if the people of that province were to be required to buy automobile insurance, they ought to be able to get the best service at the least possible cost. The Saskatchewan government, therefore, decided to go into the business itself. It expanded the operation of the existing Government Insurance Office by passing the Automobile Accident Insurance Act, which was designed to serve the people first.

Cut Collection Costs

The Government Insurance Office cut collection costs to the bone, Mr. Coldwell explained. It had each driver pay $1.00 per year when he bought his operator's licence, and $5.00 per year when he bought his car licence. This $6.00 charge bought more insurance than the privately-owned companies would sell for several times that amount. Yet the government-operated insurance plan, in its first year of operation, paid all benefits and there remained a fund of three-quarters of a million dollars. This fund was not handed over to private stockholders but remained the property of all the people, to provide additional benefits for motorists, pedestrians and passengers. So well did the people of the province support the general insurance business of this crown corporation, and because the automobile insurance plan was so successful, the first three years of operation saw the office hold funds necessary for reserves; of three million dollars. Ninety-eight per cent of this money was invested in Saskatchewan bonds, so that it could help in the development of the province rather than promote the centralization of industry elsewhere.

$180,000 Profit

Besides this reserve fund, which is kept as an asset of the Insurance Office, Mr. Coldwell stated that a surplus or profit amounting to $180,000.00, up to December 31, 1947, had been turned over to the government for the benefit of all the citizens.

Comparing the rates of the Government Insurance Office with those of private companies in Saskatchewan, Mr. Coldwell pointed out that the government insurance rates are $7.00 or less. For the same coverage the private companies charge from $18.00 to $28.00. In addition, the government scheme provides personal injury benefits which the private companies won't sell.

"Thus the private companies give Saskatchewan motorists less than the government office protection, and charge from two to four times as much," he explained.

Because most car drivers are not satisfied with the minimum amount of coverage, Mr. Coldwell said the Saskatchewan plan also provides a package policy to go with the minimum policy required by law. These two policies, together, cost a maximum of $25.80. Yet less coverage in the same province costs anywhere from $47.00 to $69.00 when bought from private companies, he stated.

"Insurance companies in other provinces defend themselves by saying that there are fewer accidents in Saskatchewan due to the fact that it is largely a rural province," he continued. "This is true and explains why private companies charge $102.00 in Edmonton, $88.00 in Winnipeg, and $69.00 in Regina for the same policy. But it does not explain why that same policy in Regina is available from the government for as little as $24.30. If the various regions are all that determine policy rates, a government insurance office should be able to reduce Edmonton's $102.00 premium to $37.00, and Winnipeg's $88.00 premium to $32.00, just as it has reduced Regina's $69.00 to $25.00.

"At a time like this when private company rates are being raised generally, it is worth thinking about the needlessly high premiums we are forced to pay in provinces governed by those who are willing to sacrifice the people's welfare to private gain. When Ontario and the other western provinces made automobile insurance compulsory, they compelled motorists to buy their insurance from private companies at high rates. No wonder the insurance companies endeavoured to defeat the Saskatchewan C.C.F. government last June.

Personal Injury Benefits

"Since the watchword of the C.C.F. is humanity first, the government did not stop at merely reducing premium costs," declared the speaker. "It made available personal injury benefits which private companies do not include in their standard policies. Hence, if a Saskatchewan farmer, who is married and has four children, is killed when his own car upsets following a blowout, his widow receives $5,625.00 in death benefits and funeral expenses. Or, if a wage or salary earner is in an automobile accident and is blinded, he receives $2,000 for the loss of his sight and an indemnity of $20.00 per week for 120 weeks, or a total of $2,400 as compensation for loss of income. These benefits are available at no extra cost and are not included under standard automobile policies sold by private companies.

"Moreover, in Saskatchewan, benefits are paid without the necessity of establishing claims in court, thus reducing benefits by legal costs. Compensation to the victims of automobile accidents is paid no matter who is at fault. It is only necessary to provide evidence that there was an accident.

"You often hear Liberals and Conservatives talk of red tape and costly bureaucracy in government affairs. But more widespread and often worse is the type of red tape and costly inefficiency which develops in private company operations."

Not Subsidized

He went on to explain that the entire staff, the rent of the office space and all other expenses of the Saskatchewan Insurance Office are paid entirely out of insurance revenues and not a red cent comes from taxation.

Public enterprize, when operated by people who believe in humanity first, can provide these benefits, he contended:

1. Greater service at a smaller cost;
2. More efficiency and less red tape;
3. Democratic control;
4. Profits for all instead of a few;
5. A financial base for social security.

When this policy is applied nationally to such fields as banking and transportation, these are the benefits we can expect.

Leads in Health

Turning to the work of the Saskatchewan government in the field of health legislation, Mr. Coldwell said "Saskatchewan has many firsts to her credit. She was the first province in Canada to provide a complete province-wide prepaid hospital scheme for her people. Nobody in Saskatchewan has any worry about hospital bills at any time. Saskatchewan was the first province to institute civilian air ambulance service so that emergency cases in the outlying areas could be rushed to hospitals without delay. This province was the first to provide complete medical care for the group of its citizens least able to pay for such care—those on old age or blind pensions, those on mothers' allowance, and so on.

"These are not isolated measures designed to attract attention, he said. "They are part of an overall plan to provide complete medical care for all the citizens as soon as facilities and finances are available. New hospitals, mainly in rural areas, have been built at such a rate that there are now almost twice as many hospital beds available per one thousand of its population as there were in 1944, when the C.C.F. took power. These hospitals are modern in every respect, completely equipped and well staffed. I visited several of them only two months ago, and I can assure you that they are filling a real need. Thus Saskatchewan is laying the foundations for a complete system of medical, dental and hospital care. It is not waiting until the Liberal Party fulfils the promises it made in 1919 and repeated in 1948. Although recognizing that an overall national plan is necessary, Saskatchewan is going as far as she can towards the goal of complete health services.

"While the war was still in progress both Canada and Britain were promised a comprehensive system of social security," he reminded the audience. "The British had their Beveridge Report and we had our Marsh Report. In 1945, at the close of the war, Britain elected a democratic Socialist government while we returned the Liberal Party to office. Now, in 1949, the people of the United Kingdom have their overall social security and health services plan. What have we? Only a continuation of the old promises and a few preliminary grants to keep us hoping.

"A C.C.F. government at Ottawa will use its policies of social ownership and economic planning to provide the financial basis for a complete nationwide system of social security and health services," he assured the audience.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
A line of cars winds slowly o'er the log,
A pedestrian plods his absent-minded way
And leaves this world quite unexpectedly.